INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT
International Reference PCT/EP99/06144

I. Basis of the report

1. This report has been prepared on the basis of (*substitute sheets which have been furnished to the Receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to the report since they do not contain amendments*):

the Specification, pages:
1-17 received on 11/21/00 with letter of 11/17/00

the Claims, nos.:
1-10 received on 11/21/00 with letter of 11/17/00

the Drawings, sheets/fig.
1-6 as originally filed

V. Substantiated determination according to Article 35(2) with respect to novelty, inventive activity and industrial applicability; documents and clarifications in support of this determination

1. DETERMINATION

Novelty	Claims 1-10	YES
	Claims	NO
Inventive Activity	Claims 1-10	YES
	Claims	NO
Industrial Applicability	Claims 1-10	YES
	Claims	NO

2. **DOCUMENTS AND CLARIFICATIONS**

See Supplementary Page

The invention relates to a perforated nonwoven fabric **[which]** fulfills the requirements for high opacity and higher softness and gentleness on the surface facing the body, and the method for its manufacture.

The perforated nonwoven fabric according to the invention is made of interlaced, continuous microfilaments, which are composed of two thermoplastic polymers having different hydrophobicity and have a filament cross-section in pie or hollow pie form, from which the split filaments have been released, the perforations being clearly formed and being free from split-fiber filaments.

The U.S. Patent 4,840,829 describes nonwoven fabrics having a mass per unit area of 10 to 150 g/m2, which are produced from staple fibers having a length of 20 to 100 mm and a titer of 0.555 to 16.65 dtex. These nonwoven fabrics have circular or elliptical openings.

WO 98/23804 describes nonwoven fabrics which are made of multi-component fibers and which, when being bonded to form a nonwoven fabric, are separated into their individual component fibers and are intermingled.